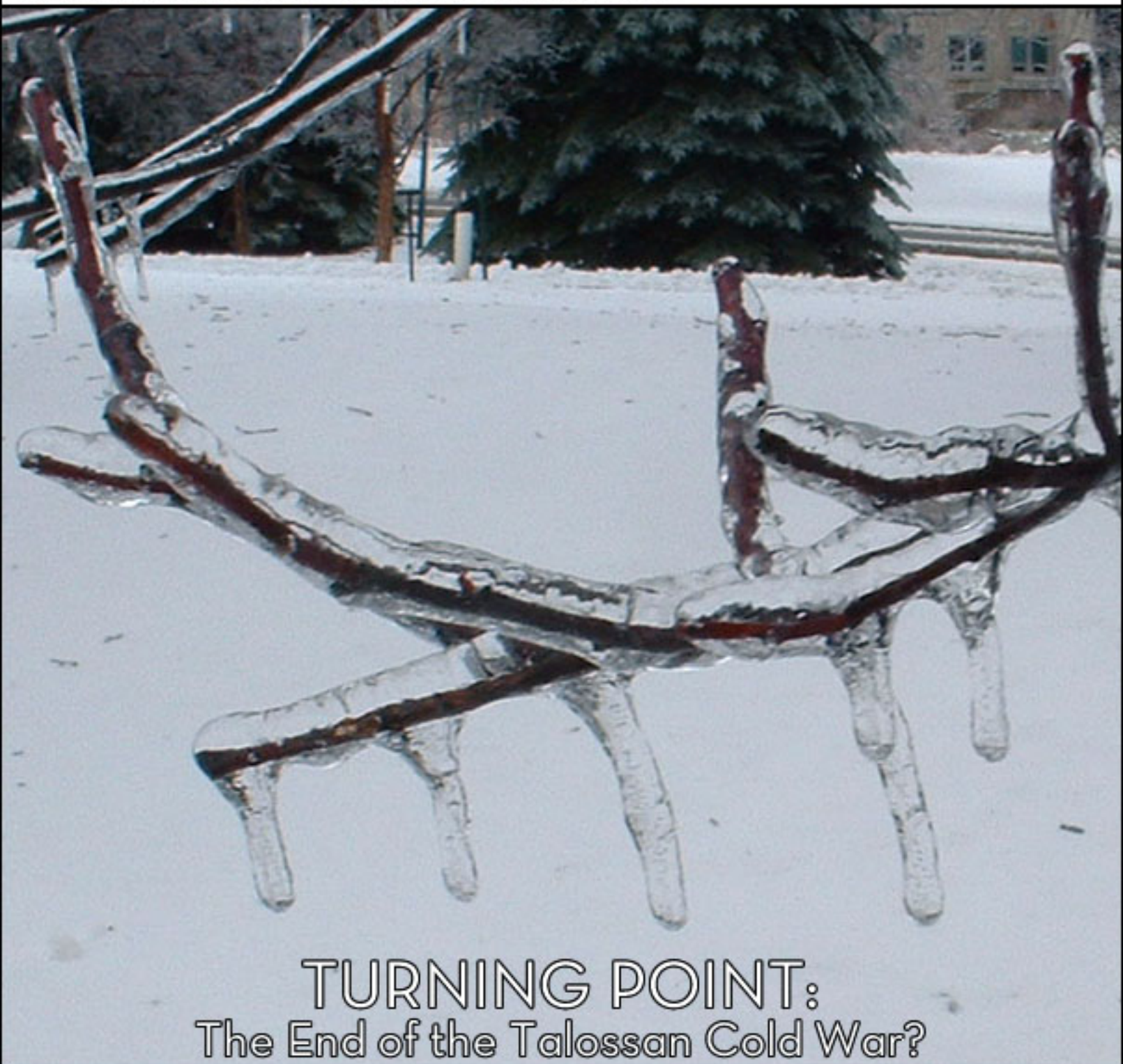


Q A T O R I T R Ì N S

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TURNING POINT: The End of the Talossan Cold War?

ALSO INSIDE:

- EDITORIAL: How to avoid the holiday doldrums
- Foreign Minister Fuxheir on ESTO
- and more!

Building a Hard Core in the Republic

Two and a half months since the last **Qator Itrins** is probably far too long. Due to our extended coverage of the “Second Revolution” in the Kingdom - and I’m sure most of you will agree our scoop interview is probably a higher priority - we don’t have space in this issue to cover the second Chamber of Deputies election, give biographies of the new citizens or prospectives, discuss the proposed changes to the spelling of the Talossan language, or otherwise serve as a record of what’s happened in the Republic since our last issue came out.

This is not a personal confession of guilt. Not only do I work like a dog in my extra-Talossan life, but I have made a conscious decision that you don’t want to read eight or twelve or however many pages of your Prime Minister rambling on with her own biased take on things. That’s the “bad old” tradition of Talossan journalism. **Qator Itrins** will be boring as lukewarm water unless it has genuine contributions from all Talossans and interested parties. This journal sees itself as the “scaffolding” around which the Talossan Republic will be built - a framework for debate, discussion and creativity. And - unless we want to go back to the old days of the personality cult - none of us can do this on their own.

Which brings me to the point that precious few of us have actually been around for the last couple of months. I know that it’s Northern Hemisphere summer and people tend to find better things to do than Talossa in that time. And that’s fine (although it would be better if the rest of us got warning). But it’s kind of annoying when people come back from their own vacations, to complain that nothing’s happening. These are no longer the days when one man can “do Talossa” full-time - and we all know that that’s the road to tyranny, anyway. We need a group of people taking responsibility for keeping Talossa running - not, of course, 24 hours a day, or seven days a week, but at least 52 weeks in a year.

There is a term in use in the military - “cadre”. It’s from the French word for “framework”, and it refers to those professional soldiers who form the backbone of a regiment, which can be filled up as and when needed by recruitment. We need a “Talossan cadre” - a subgroup of committed citizens who will make sure that silence does not descend upon the land. It’s a dirty job, with no reward apart from that of service to the Republic, but someone’s got to do it. The question of how we develop and maintain a Talossan cadre, of course, is a far trickier one, and a subject for another time.



Miestrâ Schivâ Seneschâl és Redactéir

arbec’htéu come ‘n caciun dîn va vidâ furâ-Talossân, más eu tent façat ‘n zeciziun cunschös qê si non volt lirar vuit etha dudësch etha quançeu evri dals paxhinâs da voastrâ Seneschâl garulînd cûn sieu proprâs opiniuns praixhúdicadâs. C’è la tradiziun “veâ és mál” del xhurnalismeu Talossân. **Qator Itrins** serà enuxhînd come apâ cedâ salva qê ça tischá dals comtribuziuns vrätsilor da toct i Talossâes és partiâs intzereçadâs. Acest xhurnál se vîa come el “mecinál” circûm qêt la Repúblicâ Talossân serà fraicadâ - ‘n oscatûr pêr zebäts, ziscuñiun és fabricatorátx. És - salva qê noi volent irë zürüc âls ziuâs veâs del cûlt da personalitâ - aucûn da nhoi pût façare acest solamînt.

Acest me apoartat àl tgemâ qê tréi pocs da noi actualmînt fût presînt dîrânt els mesen lasteux. Eu sâp qê c’è estivál dîn el emüspéir northesc és xhînts proclivent trovar dals cosâs miglhôrs à façare qê Talossa dîn ‘n tál tîmp. És c’è brä (ivënthö seradra miglhôr schi la rest da nhoi reçaífadrent ‘n aviß). Más c’è ‘n pô veschatîu quând dels xhînt viennent zürück dals lor endradâs proprâs, és complainent qê nitgil se paña. Acestilor non sînt pû las ziuâs quând viens vür pût “façarë Talossa” toctziuálmînt - és noi toct säpent qê acest isch la stradâ àl dictatûr, zespitzi toct. Noi fossent tirë ‘n ciumisâ qi prîndarha la rëspunçiválitâ pêr sigûrar qê Talossa continua funziunar - non, da c’horsicâ, toctziuálmînt, etha toctseifetziuálmînt, más à mhius toctârâlmînt.

Ja ‘n tërëm úçat dîn el militár - cadre. Ça vient del moct Françal pêr “oscatûr”, és ça satûra acestilor milëschen profeziunâls qi figurent la spinâ d’iens rexhimenteu, qi pût estarë sumvimplat come és quând neceña pêr rescrustmînt. Noi fost tirë ‘n “cadreu Talossân” - ‘n ciumisâ titeu dels citaxhiëns sarvîschats qi sigûrarhent qê muñitaziun non descendarha sür el pâts. C’è ‘n posteu dârligeu, cûn nesortâ da gerthiun salvâ serviçû àl Repúblicâ, más qualseviëns fost en façare. La queziun da come developar és mimtenençar ‘n cadreu Talossân, da c’horsicâ, c’è luégñh pû ûnfatgil, és c’è ‘n subxhect pêr ‘n altreu fäts.

Fraicînd ‘n Centreu Dûreu dîn la Repúblicâ

Doûa mesen és zemi zespäts el **Qator Itrins** lasteu, c’è forçâ luégñh trô lung. Á c’hauçâ da ár reportátx extendat del “Revoluziun Secund” dîn el Regipäts - és eu sînt sigûr qê el pûpârts da vhoi agrearhent qê ár travischtâ “cop” isch forçâ pû împîrtint - noi non tent del espaçál dîn acest ißü pêr reportar övër la eleziun dal Camerâ dels Deputats secund, zonarë dals biografiâs dels noveux citaxhiëns és prospectatiux, ziscutar els cînxhen propoçats àl speliçaziun del glhetg Talossân, etha altramînt perservar come las adnalâs da qêt tent pañat dîn la Repúblicâ zespäts ár ißü lasteu tent luschat.

Acest non isch ‘n aviadaziun perziunál. Non solamînt parç qê eu

THE END OF THE COLD WAR?

Madison flees Kingdom - democrats take control

The dust is only just now settling on perhaps the most significant development in the history of Talossa - the renunciation of Talossan citizenship by Robert Ben Madison, founder of the nation, and head of state of the Kingdom for 24 of its 26 years of existence.

However, suggestions that this opens the way for unity between Kingdom and Republic have been denied by leadership figures on both sides of the "Vuode Wall". And it seems that "ex-King Bob" has certainly not given up hope of a glorious comeback at some stage.

Immigration

Trouble between Madison and Conservative Loyalist Party founder/leader Fritz von Buchholtz had been brewing for some time. After the Revolution of June 2004 cost the Kingdom the majority of its active and productive citizens, Madison performed one of his characteristic "flip-flops" for personal advantage. The previously paranoid King supported the abolition of most of the Kingdom's previously strict immigration laws, in order to replace citizens.

Buchholtz, previously proprietor of a notable wargames store in the Greater Talossan Area (Milwaukee), was cajoled into joining the Kingdom precisely because of his contacts among "real world" Talossans - "cybercitizens" no longer considered trustworthy enough by the King's standards. Buchholtz succeeded admirably in his mission to get new citizens for the Kingdom. Too well.

The Kingdom experienced an immigration flood the likes of which had not been seen for many years. However, since many of these joined Buchholtz's Conservative Loyalist Party, the newcomers often did not show sufficient "loyalty" for the King's liking. One newcomer, John Woolley, even dared to suggest that the King abide by the letter of his own law - surprisingly enough a radical stand in Talossan jurisprudence, last taken by founder of Penguinia Ián Agüdecestoûr in 1997! For Madison and his backers, any threat to unquestioned Royal authority was a threat to Talossa itself and to be terminated with extreme prejudice.

Madison attempted to impose a "loyalty test" of the kind which had worked so often in Talossan history - requiring all citi-

zens to publically "shun" (as the Mennonites put it) the current target of Ben's wrath, in this case the Republic of Talossa. But this "traitor baiting" failed to sway Buchholtz or the CLP - or longstanding Talossan language activist Tomás Gariçéir. Upon learning that the King intended to sabotage the Talossan language to prevent the Republicans using it, Gariçéir renounced his Talossan citizenship, and is now collaborating with the Republic's language authority, *l'Icastolâ*.

Smear

The current crisis began in August when the King's tame Prime Minister, Marcüs Cantaloûr, unilaterally slapped a moratorium on immigration, in the face of a possible CLP victory in the September elections for the Cosâ (lower house of the Kingdom's parliament). In the storm of protest which followed this transparent attempt to smear Buchholtz as corrupt, Madison, Cantaloûr and Madison's wife Amy Durnford quit the Kingdom in high dudgeon.

In leaving, Madison did his damndest to leave the Kingdom ungovernable. Combining in his own person most of the highest offices of the Talossan state, his departure meant the near-destruction of constitutional government. He also motivated many of his own "pocket votes" - those paper citizens who are never involved in Talossa except as voting fodder come election time - to follow him out in protest. There is actually some question among CLP figures about whether the various anguished "renunciation letters" from various "ghost" citizens posted by the ex-King after his resignation had been anything but rubber-stamped by their purported authors.

Back on the rails

However, the CLP did an admirable job of getting the constitutional train back on the rails. After a few confused weeks, Senior Justice of the Uppermost Cort Dan Lorentz was confirmed as provisional Regent (head of state) and elections got underway. With the King pulling most of the votes for his Black Hand (MN) party out of the country, the results were a foregone conclusion - the CLP has won 65% of seats in the Cosâ and a real mandate for its leadership of Talossa's



Ex-King Robert and ex-Queen Amy in happier times

"Second Revolution".

The King's last throw of the dice was to attempt a lawsuit - in the name of MN leader Wes Erni - against Buchholtz's supposed "illegal actions" in facilitating immigration. Upon the rejection of this suit by the Uppermost Cort, Madison declared "TALOSSA IS DEAD" on the discussion group of his personal fan club - "the Talossa Emigré Community". Madison has been incommunicado since late September, but observers are cautious about any suggestion that he has "given up on Talossa".

The government of the Republic, very careful to avoid any appearance of interference in the affairs of its northern neighbour, has made no official comment on events north of the border, pending the election of a Kingdom (or Regency?) government with an unambiguous democratic mandate. However, shadowy forces allied to Republican interests did issue a newsletter reaching out to the new Kingdom leadership in the early days of the post-Madison era - and informal contacts continue.

Both sides are quick to scotch any rumor of a "unified Talossan state". In the fifteen months since the First Revolution, the Republic and Kingdom have gone their own way culturally and politically to a large extent. Moreover, many in the Republic are nervous about becoming entangled with the Kingdom while Madison's intentions remain cloudy. However, it certainly appears like a new era of peace and co-operation may be dawning.

"Damn, can that guy lie!"

QATOR ITRÏNS spoke to JOHN WOOLLEY, the Kingdom of Talossa's Secretary of State and a leading figure in the "Second Revolution".

Let's start by talking a bit about you. Who are you, where do you come from, how were you introduced to Talossa?

Gosh, metaphysics right off. OK, introducing myself. I'm 51 years old; I grew up and live still in Colorado, in the Western United States. I'm a deacon of the Anglican Catholic Church, a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics, a theologian, a preacher, a poet, a software engineer (which pays way better money than the other things), a linguist (Latin and Romance languages mostly). I have one wife, Kristine, several children (of whom Patrick is a Talossan now, and Danielle plans to immigrate after the current election), three dogs, dozens of friends. I am vastly enthusiastic, and frequently bore my friends, about literature (mediaeval, early modern, Victorian), history, law, baseball, jazz, private eye stories, various games, and Buffy the Vampire Slayer. And, these days, Talossa.

I first saw Talossa mentioned in the "Micronations" article on Wikipedia. I think it was the language that hooked me before anything else – clearly Romance, but weird. I could read it, but it made my eyes bleed, kind of like a strange drugged-out combination of Sardinian and Rumanian with a twist of French.

At the time when you joined the Kingdom, were you aware of the Revolution of June 2004, the existence of the parallel Republic, etc? Why did you decide that the Kingdom was where you wanted to be?

Before I contacted anyone about immigrating, I read quite a bit about both the Kingdom and the Republic. I'm a Diplomacy player (although never very good, since Diplomacy requires both verbal and analytic abilities) and a student of history and politics, and it seemed to me that here, in Talossa, was a kind of super-Diplomacy, a political simulation game, a chance to simulate not just parliamentary politics in general, but specifically the very most interesting moment in all political history, the English 17th century.

The whole theme of the Stuart period was the question of whether it was going to be possible for England and Scotland to find a way to have a monarchy and popular government both. James I and Charles I (a bad man and a good one) had enormous power, but so did Parliament, and nobody had worked out yet how to live with two rival power centers in one Constitution. Lots of people felt a lot of personal loyalty to the Kings, even when they (the Kings) were misbehaving. Various solutions were tried – decapitation, Parliamentary tyranny, reason, bribery – but nothing worked until the Glorious Revolution, when James II was booted out, and a replacement found who wasn't interested in exercising absolute power. And still, it took another century to work out all the kinks.

OK, so here was Talossa, with a King who seemed entirely unable (or at least unwilling) to allow anyone to do anything that he didn't approve of. He couldn't tax or imprison or behead anyone, but he sure could drive them out of the country by

sheer unpleasantness. He was the object of lots of personal loyalty, and to a great extent deserved it; he'd invented the whole thing, after all! So I thought, Hmmm, I wonder if it would be possible to find a way for smart independent creative people to enjoy being in Talossa, active in Talossan politics or culture or whatever, even if they didn't want to kowtow constantly to Ben? And I decided to find out if I could help bring that about.

I knew it had been tried before, without success. I figured there was a 20% chance of succeeding this time, but I intended to have fun trying, win or lose.

As for joining the Republic, it never really occurred to me. Kingdoms are just so much cooler than Republics, and present the politician with so much more in the way of interesting tactical and strategic problems.

Almost everyone when they first meet R. Ben Madison find him charming, intelligent, and friendly. Was that your impression as well, or did you realise something was "off" from the beginning?

Ben is clearly intelligent and creative, and can be very funny. But before I immigrated, I'd already read quite a bit of his writing (and I'm not talking about Ar Päts), so I had a pretty good idea of the kind of lying bully I was going to be dealing with. Intelligent, creative, funny; paranoid, vindictive, dishonest.

How was the Conservative Loyalist party founded? Doesn't that

name seem kind of ironic in retrospect?

I wasn't there at the founding – you'd have to ask Fritz. And no, I don't think the name is ironic; Ben might think so, but he always confused loyalty to Talossa with unquestioning support of Ben. (And of course he changed what that meant from one day to the next.) I'm loyal to Talossa, to the Organic Law, to the monarchy. God save the King!

When did you first incur the infamous "Wrath of Ben"?

Heh. He was getting more and more pissed off at me as time passed and it became obvious I wasn't about to swoon in abject admiration at every turn, but I think the first real smash was when I attacked the Black Hand for claiming to "promote the Talossan language wherever possible", while actually failing to allow anyone to learn or use it anywhere. In the course of the discussion I wrote "Meanwhile, the Republicans ('quitters') seem to be actually trying to 'promote the Talossan language wherever possible, and use Talossan as a recruiting tool to attract new citizens'. Why aren't we in the Kingdom doing this?" Ben went ballistic. I was "celebrating plagiarism", "supporting theft", "earning a lifetime of hatred from loyal Talossans" and so on. You know the drill.

I wasn't surprised, or even particularly annoyed. It was pretty much what I expected, given the kind of guy Ben is. Maybe the most surprising thing to me through all this has been

how ineffective Ben's nastiness was, how little tactical sense he showed. He didn't use the political power he actually had, but tried to win by bullying and intimidation instead. And damn can the guy lie.

Your forensic skill in cutting down bogus legal challenges has impressed people on both sides of the Vuode Wall. Do you have legal training? Were you shocked to find that the rule of law is not "Talossan tradition"?

I don't have any formal legal training, but I've always been interested in law and legal history. Most of my hardcore study has been in canon law. I've been a member of various Synods – Church legislative bodies – and served on various ecclesiastical courts, so I'm used to asking "What does the law actually say? What does it mean?" and reasoning from there.

And no, not shocked at all. Talossan law has never been very well written, or well enforced; and the 600-pound gorilla in the picture has always been Ben, willing to do or say anything to get his way, up to and including alienating and driving away his oldest and best friends and supporters. That sort of passionate hostility can be pretty intimidating if you're not expecting it.

What do you think of R. Ben Madison - and ex-Queen Amy - now?

I hardly know anything of Amy; what little contact I've had with her has been kind of unpleasant. As for Ben, I doubt he's changed any. Maybe he'll be able to find ways to keep happy without Talossa to control, or maybe not. I'm thinking I don't care much.

Several commentators in the Republic have cast doubt on the CLP's support of the infant King Louis I. What would you say to those who would say that it's irresponsible to put a child who has no idea what's going on at the symbolic head of the nation? Assuming that you're intent on a constitutional monarchy, aren't there better choices for a royal family "closer to home", as it were?

Well, that's the thing. We aren't starting from scratch, are we? King Louis is King of Talossa because the law says he is, because he inherited the throne, because the

"The 600-pound gorilla in the picture has always been Ben, willing to do or say anything to get his way, up to and including alienating and driving away his oldest and best friends and supporters. That sort of passionate hostility can be pretty intimidating if you're not expecting it."

- John Woolley



Coat of arms of the Kingdom of Talossa

former King abdicated in his favour. I suppose it might be possible for some future Ziu to overthrow him, but the CLP certainly has no plans to do so. I'd be against it myself. It's just one of those things that happens sometimes in a monarchy – you get a King who isn't particularly interested or suitable. Part of the challenge of monarchical constitutional government is getting through these periods, even using them to strengthen the constitution. Kings – most Kings anyway – rule "by the grace of God", not because they're carefully selected by politicians to be Kings.

Will any Kingdom citizens apply for "Friend of the Republic" status? Conversely, what would the reaction be to Republicans posting on Kingdom-Wittenberg?

Speaking only for myself now, I certainly wouldn't have any problem with members of either group posting on the other's bulletin board. We have a lot in common, and there's no reason not to talk with each other. If problems come up – "Kingdom's better", "No, Re-

public's better", "Kingdom!", "Republic!" ad nauseam – we can probably deal with them as they happen.

Do you feel that there will ever be "One Talossa" again? Certainly both sides of the border want friendly relations, but do you think the Kingdom and Republic have diverged so far that there will never again be a consensus on what Talossa truly is?

Again, just a personal opinion, and nothing official – but I don't think we'll probably ever unite, at least not in anything like the near future. The political cultures are already – after one year of separation – pretty far apart. Y'all have written a new constitution, embodying republican ideals, and begun to work out how to live under it; we have an old constitution, full of monarchical ideals, and a whole body of old law and custom, and we're working out how to live under it. Very different problems with very different solutions. Think of Great Britain and the United States. There's no way in the world they'll ever "unite" in the sense of being one country, but how could two countries be closer?

Micronations of the world - unite!

What is ESTO?

The Ephemeral States Treaty Organization is an alliance of serious, peaceful, democratic and fun-loving micronations dedicated into improving relations between them, and between their citizens, while helping encourage a movement of inter-micronational exchange with the goal of nourishing the members' growth.

It will aim toward establishing membership in ESTO as a seal of quality for micronations, differencing the bug nations from serious projects.

It is not meant to serve as "Yet Another Micronation Organization" (YAMO) to once again try and establish a United Nations in the micronational community. Instead, it is meant to serve as truly a dynamic organization dedicated to helping its members. It will NOT be a simple diplomatic forum, but rather a driving force in the development of micronations.

What does ESTO mean for the Republic of Talossa?

It is designed to become the major Foreign Affairs initiative of the Republic and to become the "vessel" through which most of the interventions of the Republic toward the micronational "community" will be channelled.

It will be the primary outlet of "foreign aid" through which the Republic of Talossa, which aims to position itself as a superpower in the micronational community, will be able to help other less organized or smaller micronations grow.

How will ESTO work?

Any micronation which follows a series of guidelines will be able to join ESTO, for example: At least two years of existence, at least ten active and voting citizens, respectful of its citizens and other micronational citizen's rights and ready to follow ESTO's charter.

Smaller or younger



New Foreign Minister of the Republic MARTÌ-PÁIR FURXHÉIR unveils the centrepiece of the new PSD government's foreign policy - the Ephemeral States Treaty Organisation.

micronations will be able to join as associate members until they fulfill all of the requirements. They will have all privileges of full members but shall not have a right to vote.

ESTO will have a charter inspired by the United Nations, but with Goals and powers similar to NATO.

A General assembly of all of the members of ESTO will provide the guidelines of the organization in a general assembly convened every three months. It will in a way act at the legislative branch of ESTO.

An Executive council, composed of approximately one-third of the members, will assume office between General Assemblies. It will act as the "government" of ESTO and will assumes all executive duties, as well as some limited legislative duties.

Like the Security Council of the UN, there will be Permanent Mem-

bers with a veto right (at first only the Republic of Talossa) and non-permanent members elected for one year, half every six months.

Permanent members of the Executive council will also have a veto right in the general assembly. New permanent members can be established by the general assembly, provided the non-permanent members always form a majority of the executive council.

The Executive council will be the driving force of ESTO. They will determine what ESTO will do an day to day operations, how to help a micronation, how to react to a certain event.

What will ESTO do?

Unlike the UN, ESTO will be allowed to intervene partially in the affairs of member states. For example, should a member state violate the rights of one of its citizens, ESTO will be empowered to impose a restoration of the rights of that citizen, barring which the member state could be suspended or expelled from ESTO.

ESTO will also offer foreign aid to its members: aid toward establishing a constitution, a series of laws, in getting their legal framework established even in getting their websites hosted, designed and up to date.

ESTO will impose a bill of rights on its members, protecting freedom, peace and democracy in general, as well as the personal rights of its citizens and of the citizens of other member states, including rights to citizenship and the rights to privacy.

ESTO will provide aid against foreign threats: when a member of ESTO is attacked, libelled, spammed, hacked or otherwise harmed by another micronation, ESTO will defend the victim and help it get proper reparation, while helping the proper authorities prosecute the belligerent(s).

ESTO will provide direct help to its members: web design, constitutional suggestions, and suggestions on how to have a working court, how to host your website, how to define a good immigration law, etc.

On Dandelions and the Republic's Consciousness: An Essay on Talossan Progressivism

By **ANTONIO LIXHITA**, Chair of
the Union for Talossan
Progress

(<http://faculty.concord.edu/aunderwood/UTP>)

It can be said that intellectual conflict is healthy as it sharpens thoughts and beliefs for those open enough to participate in its "whittling" effects. Extraneous thoughts, prejudices and personal preferences are shorn away in honest mental sparring. For a Progressive this is a good thing, a positive process that all too often can only be assisted by those who oppose you. The recently debated issue of "Dandelions" has served as a whetstone to bring the Progressive agenda into sharp focus.

For those who are not familiar or did not care, "Dandelion" is a special citizenship designation left over from the days of the Kingdom and recognized by the provisional government. This status was exclusively for children born to citizens of the Kingdom / Provisional Republic. Dandelions could on their 14th birthday request an expedited citizenship process not available to others seeking full citizenship status.

The recent debate on the Dandelion subject centered on the inherent un-republican, regressive qualifications for this status. At first, the citizenship status of the 14 and younger crowd seems to be a marginal legal concern. However, the debate on the issue has led to problematic discoveries and revelations about the nature of our good Republic and the need for a more Progressive orientation to our Government.

The very concept of a special citizenship avenue being available to some people and not others is anathema to all

things democratic and republican. The idea that a person is excluded from a particular legal status within the Republic simply by reason of their parentage or the timing of their birth is not only wrongheaded but is nothing more than a pale ghost of monarchy.

The Progressive position is neither for nor against the institution of Dandelion-hood. Indeed the Prime Minister and editor of this publication has stated that the Dandelion status is largely useless as a recruiting tool and it may be that she'll be proved right. Since to our knowledge no Dandelion has attained the age of citizenship we will not comment on its efficacy as a citizenship program. Our problem is with the exclusionary and unconstitutional nature of the program itself.

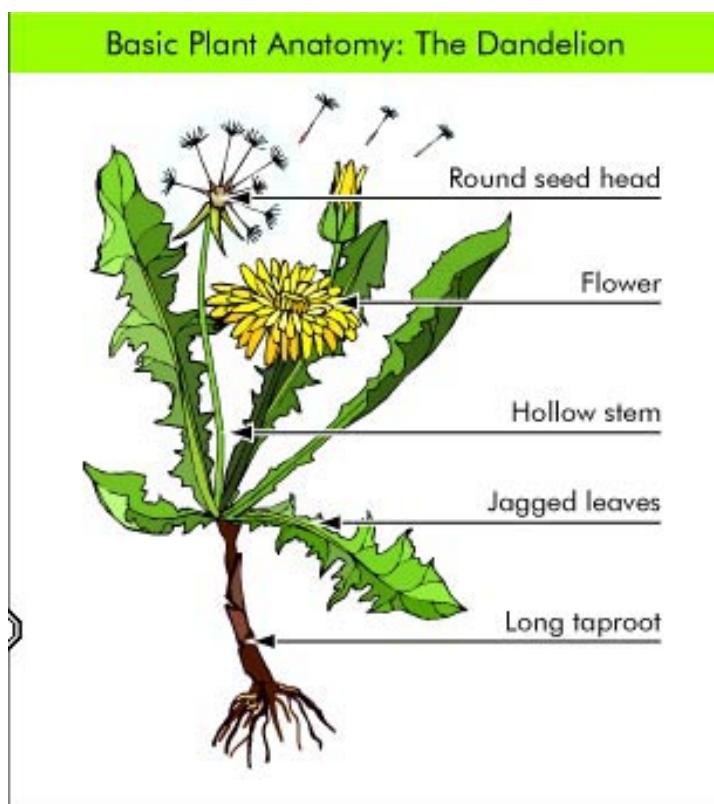
This is an issue of equal treatment before the law. Title One, Article Four, Sections 4 - 5 of the Constitution reads:

"4. All persons are equal before the law. This is the right of individual value.

5. No one may be prejudiced or favoured due to sex, parentage, race, language, homeland or origin, faith, religious or political opinions, or sexual orientation."

It seems to me that granting unique citizen status, even a seemingly meaningless title, based on who your parents are and when you were born is a clear violation the spirit of section 4 and a literal violation of section

5. In a Republic, social distinction should be available to all, granted by your peers, gained by merit and be not the product of



fortune, birth and exceptionalism. Since it would be equally unconstitutional to strip our current crop of Dandelions of their unique citizenship status without due cause and process, the Dandelion program or one of equivalent stature must be made available to all children of all citizens.

Here in lies the bedrock, core principles, of the Union for Talossan Progress. We believe that government exists for a few basic principles that can be admittedly complex in their execution.

Equality Before the Law. This is the starting point for all legitimate governments. Some conservative commentators would list the "rule of law" and the foundation of good government, but that is not true. If one has an unjust law, then the rule of law can be unjust. Totalitarian regimes have rule of

law, but I doubt we would hold them as exemplars of good government. Every citizen, native or naturalized, black or white, heterosexual or homosexual, secular or religious or both, must be held in the same regard and respect in each and every law of the land. I fear that there is a subtle prejudice against citizenship growth in our Republic. The existence of select unjust laws towards new citizens are nothing more than the last vestiges of a discredited crown.

Equality of Opportunity. Equality in and of itself is a desirable goal, but like much else must be tempered by respect for individual talents, rights, drives and ability. There is an old short story about a dystopian society that, in a drive to ensure equality made the overly tall walk stooped, the well-sighted were distorting

(continued on next page)

Dandelions and Talossan Progressivism (cont.)

glasses and the athletic wear weights about the legs. Government exists not to make every citizen equal, but to provide the fair opportunity for every citizen to succeed by their own measure. This can be accomplished through education, training, and specific awareness programs to right past wrongs. This is also accomplished through a strong and complete social support system that is less of a safety net and more of a trampoline.

Active Liberty. Some say that you must have a small, unobtrusive government to ensure individual liberty. Others argue that government must be large, involved in every life activity, to ensure equality. These views are only half right. Progressives believe, as Teddy Roosevelt did, that just as police are needed to guarantee individual safety, so active governments are needed to protect the liberty of citizens threatened by moneyed interest, the powerful conglomerates and those who put personal power before universal freedom. A large activist government that respects the individual freedoms and choices of each citizen must exist to protect those freedoms from those who would profit from their absence.

Responsible Growth. Progress is also about growth. But not just any type of growth. Like a gardener tending a flower bed we must help our plants to thrive, and grow, even adding new plants, while not letting weeds overtake the unique beauty of our plot. Here in the Republic, there are those who are afraid of growth. It seems that this fear has been with Talossa at least since the advent of the internet era with the concerns over "cybercitizens" having undue influence. Even now, one can find these fears being expressed on the Witt, some going so far as to prefer tiny voting rolls to real growth. Progressives support looking to likely populations for the active

recruiting of responsible new citizens.

Based on these principles and the Constitution the only real answer to the Dandelion conundrum is for the Republic to set up a naturalization program for the under 14 children of all citizens, regardless of the child's date of birth. Citizenship should not be automatic for dandelions, but whatever legal advantages have been granted to the monarchical/provisional era dandelions must also be accorded to all children of new citizens. If it comes right down

to it, perhaps even a ruling from the High Court will be called for. The UTP would regret the involvement of the Court but would not shy away from it either.

Aside from the legalities, ask yourself these questions; Is treating the children of new citizens as social inferiors of the children of older citizens any way to encourage new citizens to join? Should the Republic be in the business of making social distinctions between citizens based only on birth? I think not.

one bear's view...

by D. Nanöc'hfiglheu Vercáriâ



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